

destroys that inner, intellectual and spiritual manhood and womanhood that God would have preserved and kept pure and holy? Who is responsible?

The lesson taught the old Indian by the Great Spirit is perhaps applicable to the several nations of the world, and especially to America. I believe that if America will do good and put away her national sins that God will bless her abundantly; but, if not, she will no doubt get a downfall in the near future, or God "may destroy her from off the face of the earth."

"Awake, oh Zion, put on thy strength."

#### "TO EVERY CREATURE"

J. S. C. SPICKERMAN

Mrs. Lucy Rider Meyer, of Chicago, tells of a little girl who was brought to the Deaconess Home to save her from her drunken parents, who abused her so that it was feared they would kill her. She was taken into the Home and given a bath and clean clothes. The bath was a new experience to her, and she enjoyed it very much. Afterward she would talk of "when I had my bath" as one might speak of an excursion.

Mrs. Meyer had occasion to talk to the child about swearing, as she would repeat oath after oath without a thought of their meaning. She replied, "Why, you swear every day." Mrs. Meyer denied it, but the little one said, "Why, yes, you do; you say lots of the words I do, when you kneel down by your chairs after breakfast."

Another mission worker at a meeting at Kansas City told of some little boys in the slums of Boston who were asked who Jesus Christ was. At first none of them answered, then one of them spoke up, "Jesus Christ aint nobody; it's just a cuss word."

These things happened, not in China or Africa, but in this so-called Christian land, probably within sight of church buildings. More than one third of our population profess allegiance to Christ. The command, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature," could in a few years be carried out by the Christians of the United States alone; yet we have not even preached the gospel to all in our own land. What shall we do about it? Some will say, "Drop foreign missions, and confine our efforts to home work." But unfaithfulness to one part of Christ's command is not likely to insure success in another. The work is to be done in his strength, not our own; then why not do just as he has commanded us? I wonder how much money our mission secretaries get for home missions from those who oppose foreign missions. Suppose we should transfer our foreign mission contributions to home work, they would not help much.

We have no right to neglect either home or foreign work. "All the world" means both Chicago and China, Kansas City and the Kongo State, Indian Territory and India. It means every place where there is a soul

that has never heard the story of the cross.

Has the Brethren Church done all that 13,000 Christian ought to do to spread the gospel? To make the question more practical, let each member ask, "Have I done all that I could?" The work done by the church equals the sum of the work done by the individual members. The church as a whole can express itself in conference resolutions on the subject of missions; we have already shown considerable zeal in that manner; but all those resolutions are nothing but wind unless we as individuals follow them up with our money, our labors, and our prayers.

"Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?"  
Acts 9:6.

#### WHERE DUTY CALLS

C. H. WETHERBE

There are Christians whose ideas of personal duty counter to what is often pressingly demanded of them, both by God and the necessities of their lives. Their goodness lacks a true balance wheel. They spend time in religious devotions which ought to be given to either physical or mental necessities, which, for the hour, are even more important and imperative than is the duty or the work of reading the Bible and spending an hour in prayer. There are Christians who occupy time in devotional exercises which ought to be spent in secular work, or in obtaining a much better mental education than they have. Professor E. H. Johnson, in an article in the *Watchman*, in referring to a lad, whom he calls "a premature Pharisee," says: "Often during the day he was seen to withdraw into a convenient chamber, and the household took for granted that they had with them a paragon of youthful piety. Years afterward it came out that the unhappy boy, having heard that a Christian must be much in prayer, used often to kneel down in a dark clothes press, half smothered by the hanging garments and agonize before God because he could not enjoy doing it. No one asked any questions or offered any counsel. All took the little fellow to be in this thing a pattern for themselves, rather than in sore need of guidance from them. A few years rolled by, and he was away from home and at school. The old problem still haunted him: how could he truly love God and not love to spend all his hours in reading the Bible and at prayer? His distress became unbearable, and he told it at last to the master of the school; but the master made short work of all this perplexity and pain. He merely said: God does not wish you to spend all your time reading the Bible and praying. He has placed you at school. He wants you to study. And this young man was comforted." He received a vision of common sense. He at last learned that true duty called him away from the secret closet and from devotion to Bible reading long enough to give thorough attention to such school discipline as he was much in

need of. Prayer and Bible reading are very essential, but, good as they are, they must not be allowed to keep one from other duties which are just as essential to one's well-being and God's praise.

#### JESUS ALWAYS FORGIVES

(Selected by Mrs. J. E. Adams)

Sometimes people are troubled with fears, that God does not forgive their sins. Some suffer greatly on account of such thoughts. Five things are necessary to bring and keep one where he always feels forgiven: first, seeing how sin is against God. Second, knowing that Jesus, as well as God the Father, forgives. Third, knowing that the heart of Jesus is ever forgiving. Fourth, having a heart like his. Fifth, really desiring forgiveness.

*Any wrong I do effects Jesus.*

He of all others is the one most interested in me. He is a ruler, but his law is the law of love. His joy is in giving joy. He wishes all to be free and thinks only of helping each one to a life of perfect freedom. Sin makes slaves of us. Jesus says, "Who-soever committeth sin is the servant (or slave) of sin," (John 8:34) and "If the Son shall make you free ye shall be free indeed." (John 8:36) You know something of how a true mother loves her children and how intensely she is interested in all that they do. Jesus is more loving and interested than a mother. You know how the true mother is continually advising and helping toward what seems best for her children; how she rejoices in their growth in knowledge, strength and virtue, and grieves over their mistakes and sins. If one of the children is sick she is distressed because of it. If one becomes rebellious or sulky, and does not care for her counsels she is sorry and grieves because her love and care are scorned. The child who loves its mother is always anxious to do its best for that mother's sake. The better it understands her loving heart the more anxious it is to avoid giving her pain in any way. The better it understands its mother's love and realizes that her heart has only forgiveness for it the more earnestly and quickly it goes to her. Then soon with every wrong there comes a pain to its own heart and it is not only anxious to hear the mother's "never mind" but for her advice and help that the child hurries to her at such times. In one particular Jesus' relation to us is different from that of a mother and, that is, His laws are all fashioned by unerring love, while even the best of mothers may at times be unloving and unwise. I used to think of God as one who delights to punish. I have learned to now think of him as one who saves from harm. Jesus said, The Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost. (Luke 19:10) Harm must come from wrong. When we sin it gives us an unhappy conscience. This I think is the spirit of Jesus in the heart grieving over our sin. There is something we should all remember as we listen to the spirit of Jesus. He helps